

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01
VO-03 INSE-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /053 W
-----240712Z 017393 /21

R 231501Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4120
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2470

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF CVIS
SUBJ: PREVIOUS BEIRUT CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROGRAM

REF: (A) MOSCOW 2232, (B) STATE 172973 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY BEIRUT WAS APPROACHED IN EARLY MAY BY AN ARMENIAN PASTOR REGARDING GROUP OF 20 SOVIET ARMENIANS WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN LEBANON IN PAST FEW MONTHS AND WISH TO PROCEED TO UNITED STATES. THEY WERE PREVIOUSLY ADVISED THEY MUST APPLY INS OFFICER ATHENS OR ROME BUT HAVE BEEN UNABLE OBTAIN GREEK VISAS AND HAVE NO DESIRE TRAVEL TO ROME AT CONSIDERABLE EXPENSE WITH INDETERMINATE WAIT. THEY URGED THAT THEY BE PROCESSED AT BEIRUT AS REFUGEES.

2. FOUR HEADS OF FAMILY DISCUSSED POSSIBLE VISA APPLICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE SUGGESTION OF CONSOFF TO PASTOR. SEVENTEEN OF GROUP ARRIVED MARCH 1977 WHILE REMAINDER ARRIVED DECEMBER 1976. AS NONE HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS IN U.S., WERE ADVISED MUST OBTAIN LABOR CERTIFICATIONS. THEY STATED AMERICAN EMBASSY MOSCOW ADVISED THEM TO GO BEIRUT AS THEY COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED AT ROME. THEY ADDED THAT ACCORDING TO RUSSIAN
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REGULATIONS THEY HAD TO GO TO LEBANON FIRST ALTHOUGH THEIR INTENTION ALWAYS WAS TO GO TO U.S. VAGA DAIAN STATED HE AND FAMILY HAD BEEN ACCEPTED FOR ROME BUT HAD INSUFFICIENT TIME TO GET ITALIAN VISA AND LEFT BEFORE SOVIET PASSPORT DUE TO EXPIRE.

3. WE HOPE THIS IS ONLY A FOOTNOTE TO REF A, BUT THERE

HAVE BEEN OTHER APPROACHES REGARDING REOPENING OF REFUGEE PROCESSING AT BEIRUT. ON MARCH 3 FRANK DE JONGE, DIRECTOR OF WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OFFICE AT ATHENS, ACCOMPANIED BY VAN KRIEKEN OF UNHCR BEIRUT, CALLED AT EMBASSY TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF REFUGEE PROCESSING HERE. HE REFERRED TO 20 POSSIBLE CONDITIONAL ENTRY APPLICANTS IN LEBANON ADDING THAT USRP GENEVA HAD GIVEN HIM LIST OF 90 SPONSORED REFUGEES FROM EASTERN EUROPE WHO ARE POSSIBLE STILL IN LEBANON. WE SUGGESTED REFUGEE PROCESSING, WHETHER AT ATHENS OR BEIRUT, BE DISCUSSED WITH IMMIGRATION SERVICE OFFICER AT ATHENS. AT TIME OF DISCUSSIONS WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES WAS UNCERTAIN WHEN ITS OFFICES IN BEIRUT MIGHT REOPEN.

4. EMBASSY STILL BELIEVES CONSIDERABLE TIME WILL ELAPSE BEFORE PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT REESTABLISHED HERE TO SUCH EXTENT THAT SUCCESSFUL 203(A)7 CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROGRAM COULD BE CARRIED OUT. AT SAME TIME WE RECOGNIZE THAT REFUGEES LIKELY ENTER LEBANON WELL IN ADVANCE OF COUNTRY'S RETURN TO NORMALCY. REQUEST DEPARTMENT AND ADDRESSEE POSTS REMIND INTERESTED PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT BEIRUT CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROGRAM IS STILL SUSPENDED AND LIKELY TO REMAIN SO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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